

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended). A device for clamping and ablating cardiac tissue comprising:

a first handle member;

a second handle member;

first and second jaw members associated with the first and second handle members, respectively, the jaw members being movable by the handle members between a first open position and a second clamped position in which the jaw members are substantially parallel, at least portions of the jaws members being parallel through a range of tissue clamping spacing, such portion of each jaw member including a clamping surface having a width;

a first elongated electrode extending along the clamping surface of the first jaw member and forming a part thereof portion of first jaw member, the first elongated electrode having a tissue contacting portion which has a width, the clamping surface including non-conductive portions and the portion of the first jaw member including a clamping surface having a width greater than the first electrode and disposed on each side of the tissue contacting portion of the first electrode, the width of the tissue contacting portion being substantially narrower than the width of the clamping surface;

a second elongated electrode extending along the clamping

surface of the second jaw member and forming a part thereof
portion of second jaw member, the second elongated electrode
having a tissue contacting portion which has a width, the
clamping surface including non-conductive portions and the
portion of the second jaw member including a clamping surface
having a width greater than the second electrode and disposed on
each side of the tissue contacting portion of the second
electrode, the width of the tissue contacting portion being
substantially narrower than the width of the clamping surface;

the first and second electrodes being in face-to-face relationship and being adapted to be connected to an RF energy source so that, when activated, the first and second electrodes are of opposite polarity and are operable to create a line of ablation therebetween substantially narrower than the width of the clamping surface.

2. (Previously presented). The device of claim 1 wherein the parallel jaw members are spaced apart between approximately 1 to 15 mm when in the clamped position.

3. (Currently Amended). A tissue grasping apparatus comprising:

first and second parallel grasping jaws, the grasping jaws being relatively moveable between open and closed positions, the spacing between the jaw members being substantially constant when in the closed position and at least portions of the jaws

being parallel through a range of clamping spacing; each jaw including an elongated electrode and a clamping surface on such portion in face-to-face relation with the electrode and clamping surface of the other jaw; ~~the face-to-face electrodes being of opposite polarity and connectible to a power source for providing an electrical current to the electrodes each clamping surface having a width and including non-conductive portions; and each elongated electrode extending along the clamping surface and forming a part thereof, and each elongated electrode having a tissue contacting portion which has a width substantially narrower than the width of the clamping surface; width less than the width of the respective clamping surface and the tissue contacting portion of each electrode being flanked by a portion the non-conductive portions of the respective clamping surface; the face-to-face electrodes being of opposite polarity and connectible to a power source for providing an electrical current to the electrodes so that, when activated, the first and second electrodes are operable to create a line of ablation therebetween substantially narrower than the width of the clamping surface.~~

4. (Previously presented). The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the parallel grasping jaws spaced apart between approximately 1 to 15 mm when in the closed position.

5. (Previously presented). The apparatus of claim 3

wherein the clamping surfaces of the jaws comprise insulating material.

6. (Previously presented). The apparatus of claim 1 in which the each electrode is generally centrally located relative to the width of the respective clamping surface.

7. (Previously presented). The apparatus of claim 3 in which each electrode is generally centrally located relative to the width of the respective clamping surface.